

Carina and I wish you and your family a wonderful 2015, filled with good health, success and the Lord's Blessings.

Word to the Wise

Enjoy being with your families, thank your lucky stars for what and who you have, wish for those who are hurting to be less so, and remember those who blazed a trail for us.

ZS90SARL

Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, of the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society (PEARS) will be the first station to use the call sign ZS90SARL to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the South African Radio League (SARL). Originally known as the South African Radio Relay League (SARRL), the national body for amateur radio in South Africa was formed in May 1925, shortly after the formation of the International Amateur Radio Union in Paris, France.

It is fitting that the first transmission of ZS90SARL will be made from Port Elizabeth, as it was there that the first radio contact in South Africa was established. It was Edward Alfred Jennings, a telephone technician in the city who through experimentation to improve the performance of the telephone mouthpiece detected its coherer properties. He also noticed that the electric

a primitive receiving station at Copper's Kloof. A flag was hoisted if his signals were received and indeed, they were.

Jennings did not get much attention. The then Prime minister of the Cape, John X Merrimen was against wireless, but his famous comment that "that life was complicated enough with the normal telegraph that with radio telegraphy life would become unbearable" did not put Jennings off. He carried on with his radio experimentation. On 8 May 1899, he did a demonstration in the Port Elizabeth City hall at a meeting chaired by a prominent businessman, Mr MM Loubser. Loubser referred to reports from overseas and said, "Mr Jennings has over the past year carried on quietly with his experimentation and research and his results are as impressive as those of Prof Marconi. His achievements are so much more significant as he did his research in in free time." Form all accounts he was the first true radio amateur in South Africa

Give ZS90SARL a call and celebrate 90 years of South African Radio League and the first transmission from Port Elizabeth. Theunis, ZS2EC, will be operating ZS90SARL from 1 January until 11 January 2015.

Clubs and amateurs wishing to use the call sign from their station are invited to send their requests to sarl90@sarl.org.za with suggested dates and planned operation.

Hunting Lions-in-the-Air

The event takes place on the weekend closest to 13 January, the birth date of Melvin Jones, the founder of the Lions organisation - 10 and 11 January 2015. It will not be a contest but merely a means for Lions to exchange greetings with other Lions and Lions Clubs. Radio amateurs and members of the various Lions Clubs get together and the Lions are allowed to exchange greetings with other Lions under supervision of the radio amateur. Normally the name and number of the Lions Club is the exchange

Youngsters on the Air, Italy 2015

It is already time for the fifth edition of the Youngsters on the Air summer event. In 2015, the youth radio camp will take place in Italy, organised by ARI (Associazione Radioamatori Italiani).

In this week, teams of young radio amateurs from several countries will be participating in all kind of amateur radio activities. Think about workshops, contesting and ARDF, we will try to show many aspects of the radio hobby. Of course, you will also get the chance to learn about other cultures; in the famous intercultural evening, you will get the chance to try food and drinks from all participating countries. As we go to Italy, we will also show you the country and Italian traditions.

This is just a little bit of what we are going to do in this event. It will be a great experience for all participants, which they will never forget. To get a better feeling about this, have a look at the gallery from previous events www.ham-yota.com/gallery/

When – 18 to 25 July 2015 at Marina di Massa in Tuscany.

Participants - each IARU Region 1 Member Society is invited to take part with a team. A team consist of maximum five persons, four persons with the age 15 - 25 years and one person is dedicated as team leader.

Fees - travel costs to Pisa airport and €25 per participant. All other costs (accommodation, food, activities) will be covered; main funder of the event is IARU Region 1.

January 2015

1 – New Year's Day; start of ZS90SARL; start of CQ Marathon

10 and 11 – Hunting Lions in the Air

14 – Inland schools open

16 to 18 - PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest

21 – Coastal schools open

24 – Summer QRP Contest

If your member society is interested to participate, please respond to italy@ham-yota.com by 27 January 2015 by sending in the application form available on www.ham-yota.com/wp-

content/uploads/2014/12/Application-form-YOTA2015.pdf. For any questions, please contact <u>italy@ham-yota.com</u>. There is a limit of 75 participants. Make sure you will apply in time. We will announce the participating countries shortly after the deadline.

HF Contesting Guidelines

The ARRL has published a revision to the HF Contesting Guidelines. The revisions by a team of CAC members (K5KG, N3BB, K3WW, W1UE) address changes in technology that have affected HF contesting in recent years and present a current understanding of HF contesting standards and practices. (VHF and above contesting is not addressed.) Additionally, sections of the previous document were rewritten and reorganized to improve readability. The goal of the guidelines is to provide guidance and advice, especially for new contesters, and to encourage contest operation that advances the spirit and integrity of Radiosport. www.arrl.org/hf-contesting-guidelines

When do contest logs really come in?

Are they spread out throughout the submission period? How many sneak in at the deadline and how many are late? CQ World Wide DX Contest Director, Randy, K5ZD, put together this chart showing how the logs are submitted over time. Do not miss that deadline!

http://cgww.com/blog/when-do-logs-come-in/

Operating Tip

After each big contest (and some little ones), there is a big online discussion about duplicate contacts. Do you log them? Do you tell the caller they are a dupe? Are there penalties for submitting a log with duplicate QSOs? The consensus is that you should just log the new contact - it might save you or the other station from getting a NIL (Not in Log) penalty if the earlier contact was not successful on either end.

As CQ WW Director, Randy, K5ZD, says, "Working dupes is good. There is no downside from logging a station a second time."

CQ WW RTTY Manager, Ed, WØYK, observes, "Contesting is a cooperative sport where competitors must work together to create a valid QSO in both logs that each gets credit for. To that extent, "I am my brother's keeper." Working dupes supports this paradigm."

One lesson here is that you need to learn how to force logging a dupe in your software - such as ALT-Enter in N1MM. Software authors, please support logging duplicate QSOs!

Basics of Baluns

Steve, WA7DUH, has put together this PowerPoint slideshow covering the basics of baluns, visit http://setxac.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Baluns.pdf.

Once familiar with the technology, this paper from DX Engineering will help you choose the right type of balun for your particular needs.

http://static.dxengineering.com/pdf/Choosing %20the%20Correct%20Balun.pdf

QSLing is the final courtesy of a QSO

The South African Radio League has produced a generic QSL card, which you can personalise by writing in your own call sign. The cards are available in batches of 100 at R50 per batch, including postage. To order, pay in the amount for the required number of QSL cards into the SARL account.

Account details: ABSA account no 407 158 8849, branch code 632 005. Send details

of the delivery address and proof of payment to zs6wwj@gmail.com



Happy Birthday - IARU, DARC and PZK

Germany, DL. Germany. DJ90IARU (with special DOK 90IARU) celebrates the IARU's 90th anniversary all year long.

DK65DARC and DL65DARC are two special event calls celebrating the 65th anniversary of the national German club DARC. There will also be an award available. Visit the following web sites

www.darc.de/referate/dx/bulls/darc65/ and www.darc.de/referate/dx/bulls/darc65/speci al-award/

Poland, SP. Polish amateurs join the IARU celebrations with the following special calls 3Z90IARU, HF90IARU, SN90IARU, SP90IARU, SQ90IARU and SO90IARU. A special award will also be available.

The following stations will celebrate the 85^{th} anniversary of PZK, the Polish national club, between 1 January and 30 April 3Z85PZK, HF85PZK, SN85PZK, SP85PZK, SQ85PZK, and SO85PZK.

OQR5 is possible from 1 January onwards. http://85.pzk.org.pl/index.php

French Southern Antarctic Territory

Look for special event station TM60TAAF to be on air on 1, 6 to 8, 13 to 17, 19 to 22 and 27 to 28 February 2015. Activity is to celebrate the 60th anniversary of French Southern Antarctic Territory (FSAT/TAAF) founding in 1955. The FSAT/TAAF territory includes eight DXCC entities - Amsterdam, Crozet and Kerguelen Islands (3), Adelie Land

/Antarctica (1), Europa, Glorieuse, Juan de Nova and Tromelin islands (4).

Operation will be from 40 to 10 m by Francois, F8DVD, from his home at Macon in the eastern part of France, 60 km north of Lyon. Activation will also be held during the 12th Antarctic Activity Week. The new reference for WAP program is 255. QSL via F8DVD, direct with SAE and 1 new IRC or 2 USD (Francois Bergez 6, rue de la Liberte F-71000 Macon, France) or via the Bureau. For more details, visit

www.grz.com/db/TM60TAAF

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10

114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14

260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Ascension Island, ZD8. Operators Werner, DJ9KH, Axel, DK9BDN, and Christian, DL6KAC, will be active as ZD8D during February and March 2015. Activity will be focused on 160 to 40 metres, including 60 m, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via DL9HO. Operations will probably include the ARRL DX SSB Contest.

The ZD8D web will be updated soon with all the information www.zd8d.de. You can use the ZD8D Online QSL Request System to get your ZD8D card(s). The OQRS is available for direct and Bureau cards.

History this Week

Week starting 29 December 2014

1791 -A US patent for spinning cotton by waterpower was issued to William Pollard of Philadelphia

1799 - Income Tax (temporary) introduced in UK at 10% to pay for Napoleonic Wars

1879 - Inventor Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, New Jersey 1913 - Dr William David Coolidge patented a method for making ductile tungsten for making filaments for electric lamps

1952 -The first transistor hearing aid went on sale, the model 1010 manufactured by the Sonotone ${\it Corp}$

2014 - Dennis, ZS4BS/2 kisses his wife for the last time in 2014

January 1 was a busy day!

5777 BC - Origin of Solar Cycle

4714 BC - Origin of Julian Period (Year 0)

4713 BC - Julian Year 1 begins, at Greenwich mean noon

0045 BC - Origin of Julian Era; Julian calendar begins

0038 BC - Origin of Era of Spain (Caesars)

0030 BC - Origin of Actian Era

0001 BC - Origin of Era of Pisa

0001 - Origin of Christian Era

1622 - Papal Chancery adopts 1 January as the beginning of the year (previously it was 25 March)

1889 - A motor vehicle excise tax took effect in Great Britain, 2 Guineas

1896 - Wilhelm Röntgen announces his discovery of x-rays

1901 - Australia becomes a united Commonwealth of six British colonies

1902 -The first radio broadcast demonstration in the US was given by Nathan B. Stubblefield

1903 -The first trans-Pacific cable from the US was landed at Honolulu, Hawaii

1962 -The last signals from the OSCAR 1 satellite were received as its non-rechargeable battery failed

1972 - Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) was adopted worldwide

2000 - Greenwich Electronic Time - known as GeT - was initiated in Britain

2015 - Dennis, ZS4BS/2 kisses his wife for the first time in 2015

1404 - English alchemists were forbidden to use their knowledge to create precious metals 1610 - Galileo dated his first letter describing telescopic observations in which he saw the moon's cratered surface

1714 - The typewriter was patented by Englishman Henry Mill, but not developed

1820 - Stainless steel invented by a French metallurgist

1838 - Samuel Morse, with his partner, Alfred Vail, gave the first public demonstration of their new invention electric telegraphic system at the Speedwell Iron Works in Morristown. NJ

1863 - Four-wheeled roller skates were patented by James Plimpton of New York

1871 - Oleomargarine (Margarine) was patented by Henry Bradley in Binghamton, NY

1878 - The first demonstration of A G Bell's telephone to Queen Victoria at her Osborne House estate on the Isle of Wight 1890 - The seals were broken on the standard kilogram and metre for the USA measurement units

1894 - "Edison Kinetoscopic Record of a Sneeze" released in movie theatres

1896 - The discovery of X-rays by W Röntgen was published in an Austrian newspaper, Wiener Presse

1904 - Marconi Co established "CQD" as first international radio distress signal

1927 - A commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 29 December 2014 to 5 January 2015

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 UTC-03:30 UTC 31 December

Mode: CW Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country,

name and power output QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 1 January 2015

E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.grpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 31 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 1 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or

country

Work stations: Once per band QSO Points: 1 point per QSO Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 3 January 2015

Post log summary at:

http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

AGB New Year Snowball Contest 00:00 - 01:00 UTC 1 January

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed; Single

Op Mixed QRP; Multi-Op; Digital; SWL

Exchange: AGB Member: RST, QSO no and member no; non-Member: RST and QSO No Work stations: Once per mode per 15-minute period (see rules)

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; 5 points per QSO with AGB member

Multipliers: Each AGB member once; Each

DXCC/WAE country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 January 2015 E-mail logs to: euleu@mail.ru

Mail logs to: Igor "Harry" Getmann, EU1EU,

PO Box 143, Minsk 220005, Belarus

Find rules at:

www.qsl.net/eu1eu/agb_nysb.htm

SARTG New Year RTTY Contest 08:00 - 11:00 UTC 1 January Mode: RTTY Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: One Radio/All Band; Two Radios/All

Band; SWL

Max operating hours: 3 hours

Exchange: RST, QSO no, name and happy new

year (native language)

Work stations: Once per band QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each DXCC country, except Scandinavia, once per band; Each Scandinavian pre-

fix once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 January 2015 E-mail logs to: contest@sartg.com

Mail logs to: SARTG Contest Manager, Ewe Hakansson, SM7BHM, Pilspetsvagen 4, SE-291

66, Kristianstad, Sweden

Find rules at:

http://www.sartg.com/contest/nyrules.htm

AGCW Happy New Year Contest 09:00 - 12:00 UTC 1 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m Classes: Single Op; SWL Max operating hours: 3 hours

Max power: 1: >150 W; 2: 150 W; 3: 5 W Exchange: AGCW: RST, serial no, "/" and

member no; non-AGCW: RST and serial no Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO Multipliers: Each AGCW member

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 January 2015 E-mail logs to: hnyc@aqcw.de

Mail logs to: Daniel Schirmer, DL5SE, Am

Teich 15, D-25917 Stadum, Germany

Find rules at:

http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en/contestsand-cw-activities/happy-new-year-contest

QRP ARCI New Years Sprint 15:00 - 18:00 UTC 1 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: All Band - Antennas: Single or Multi Element; Single Band - Antennas: Single or Multi Element; High Bands - Antennas: Single or Multi Element; Low Bands - Antennas: Sin-

gle or Multi Element

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and

ARCI number or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with ARCI member; 4 points per non-member QSO with different continent; 2 points per non-member QSO with same continent; Bonus points: 5 000 for battery power portable with temporary antenna

Multipliers: Each state, province, country once

Power Mult: >5 W = x 1, 1 - 5 W = x 7, 500 mW- 1 W = x 10, 200 - 500 mW = x 15, 55 - 200 mW = x 20, <55 mW = x 25

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 8 January 2015 E-mail logs to: contest@grparci.org

Mail logs to: ARCI New Years Sprint, C/O Jeff Hetherington, 139 Elizabeth St. W.,

Welland, Ontario L3C 4M3, Canada Find rules at: http://www.grparci.org/

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest

18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW); 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB); 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 -

22:00 UTC (Dig) 1 January Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital

Bands: 10 m Only Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square

QSO Points: (see rules) Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 15 January 2015

Upload log at:

http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 2 January

Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total Q50

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 4 January 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:

http://www.3830scores.com/

Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at:

http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 2 January

Mode: CW Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country

and name and power output QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 3 January 2015

E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.grpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 2 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20 m Classes: Single Op Max power: 100 watts Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA

station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (ex-

cept W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 4 January 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:

http://www.3830scores.com

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

PODXS 070 Club PSKFest 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 3 January

Mode: PSK31

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: QRP Single Band; QRP Multiband; Low

Power; Medium Power

Max operating hours: 24 hours

Max power: Medium Power: 100 watts; Low

Power: 50 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band QSO Points: 1 point/QSO

Multipliers: States, provinces and countries,

once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 17 January 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: http://hamclubs.info/scorer/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.podxs070.com/o7o-

club-sponsored-contests/pskfest

WW PMC Contest

12:00 UTC 3 January to 12:00 UTC 4 January

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed - Peace Messenger City or world - QRP, low or high; Multi-Op - CW, SSB or mixed - Peace Messen-

ger City or world

Exchange: PMC: RS(T) and PMC abbreviation;

World: RS(T) and CQ Zone

Work stations: Once per mode per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each PMC once per mode per band Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 11 January 2015 E-mail logs to: pmc@s59dcd.si

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

http://www.s59dcd.si/en10/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=78&Itemid=92

ARRL RTTY Roundup

18:00 UTC 3 January to 24:00 UTC 4 January

Mode: RTTY, Digital Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - low or high; Single Op Unlimited - low or high; Multi-Single - low or high

Max operating hours: 24 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts Exchange: W/VE: RST and state or province;

non-W/VE: RST and serial no Work stations: Once per band QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each US state (except KH6/KL7) once only; Each VE province/territory once only; Each DXCC country (including KH6/KL7)

once only

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 3 February 2015

E-mail logs to: RTTYRU@arrl.org

Mail logs to: RTTY Roundup, ARRL, 225 Main

St., Newington, CT 06111, USA

Find rules at:

http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup

EUCW 160 m Contest

 $20{:}00$ - $23{:}00$ UTC 3 January and 04:00 -

07:00 UTC 4 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: A: 150 W or more, member of affiliated club; B: 5 - 150 W, member of affiliated club; C: 5 W or less, member of affiliated club; D: Other stations, no power limitations; E: SWL

Exchange: Affiliated Club Member: RST, name, club and membership no; Other: RST, name and "NM"

Work stations: Once per day

QSO Points: QSO with station in same DXCC country: 1 point; QSO with station in different DXCC country, but same continent: 2 points; QSO with station in different continent: 5 points; QSO with official EUCW club

station: 10 points

Multipliers: EUCW clubs, once per day

Score Calculation: Total score = total Q50

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 8 February 2015 E-mail logs to: f6cel@orange.fr

Mail logs to: Ghislain Barbason, 5 rue de l'E-

cluse, F-02190 Pignicourt, France

Find rules at: http://www.eucw.org/eu160.html

ARRL Kid's Day Contest

18:00 - 23:59 UTC 4 January

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 2 m repeat-

ers

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Name, age, QTH and favourite col-

our

Submit logs by: 3 February 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)
Mail logs to: (see rules)

Find rules at: http://www.arrl.org/kids-day

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 6 January

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 7 January and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 8 January

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 9 January

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 9 January

Old New Year Contest, 05:00 - 09:00 UTC 10 January

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 10 January to 24:00 UTC 11 January

North American CW QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 11 January to 05:59 UTC 11 January

NRAU-Baltic SSB Contest, 06:30 - 08:30 UTC 11 January

DARC 10-Meter Contest, 09:00 - 10:59 UTC 11 January

NRAU-Baltic CW Contest, 09:00 - 11:00 UTC 11 January

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL DX Newsletter, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News, DxCoffee and the Islands, Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin